



AMERICAN LEGION POST 27

NEWSLETTER

FARMINGTON, UTAH



December 2012

www.post27.org

Commander's Corner



Paula Stephenson

Fellow Veterans and Legion Family: December is a month of anticipation, what is currently happening in our lives and spiritually. My Mom's birthday, Pearl Harbor Day, selecting the "right" gifts, the Christmas parties with family and friends, Hanukkah for my uncle, and Christmas with the celebration of Jesus' birthday for our family. Every year I am taken back to my years on active duty, and the anticipation of going home to spend that precious time with my parents. The plane reservations to Montana were made in August. There was one Christmas I was snowed in for a week there. But we never knew when deployment orders would come. Thus, the pins and needles game, which ended when the plane hit the ground in Kalispell, Montana. I think about what our troops anticipate these days. Stressful beyond belief! For those that are able to spend time with their families and close friends, it is a blessing. For those who remain "on duty", it is our blessing because of them. Please remember all of our uniformed military this holiday season and throughout the year. The anticipation of all the blessings gives hope for the coming year, and a peaceful New Year.

1st Vice Commander



Ron Craig

We are in search of Blue Star Families. We are tentatively looking at Armed Forces Day, May 8 to conduct the presentation. The goal of the American Legion is to purchase and present Blue Star Banners to the families of Armed Services men and women from Posts supported communities to display in the windows of their homes and to offer assistance, information, and services to military personnel and their families, when needed. Please take the time to inquire and to help identify families in the Kaysville, Fruit Heights, Farmington, and Centerville areas who have family members serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. This includes active duty and reserves forces. We will need contact information on the family and info on their service member.

You can email me roncraig@acnrep.com or call me at [801-628-3480](tel:801-628-3480).

The Honor Guard is a highlight of our post. The service we render to our fallen comrades and their families is a great honor. As a team, we are quickly being recognized as a can do team. By this I mean, we are there when needed and we perform at an exceptional level. I personally want to thank all who participate on the Honor Guard. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact John Sheets so you are on his distribution list. We will train you.

2nd Vice Commander



T'is the season of the Constitution as freshman through senior high school students have been invited to prepare and participate in the American Legion's Oratorical Constitutional Scholarship contest. The first level competition will be held by Post 27 on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013 at 4:00pm, hosted at Davis High School with competitors invited from Davis, NUAMES and Viewmont high schools. Legionnaires are invited to assist through serving in one of several available roles as escorts to a student contestant, time keepers, tabulators or one of five judges. Please contact William Huber with your questions or to assist at [801-597-9807](tel:801-597-9807) or by email at william.a.huber@comcast.net.

William Huber High school counselors have been given detailed information and are advising students that prize money is available at each level of the competition (\$100 1st Place prize for the post level competition continuing onto district, department levels and concluding with the national level competition grand prizes: 3rd Place \$14,000, 2nd Place \$16,000 and 1st Place \$18,000). Last year Taylor Greenwell from Davis H.S. won more than \$2,400 as the champion from Utah. Invite your high school age relatives, young men and women at church and in your community to participate. The following American Legion Oratorical Program website link accesses a great deal of information regarding the contest and may be found at:

<http://www.legion.org/oratorical>.

Adjutant



Thanks to all who have forwarded their DD 214's/Discharge Certificates for project "Operation Verify." If you haven't done so, please forward a copy of your service documents to me at stphnsnc@aol.com or to our mailing address – 1258 E. Eagle Way, Fruit Heights, UT 84037. If your Social Security Number is on your document, you may black it out if desired before sending. We are scanning the documents to a "thumb" drive; both the thumb drive and the copies are kept in our fire safe.

Welcome to our newest member of Squadron 27, Sons of the American Legion – Ken Hadley. Ken **Chuck Stephenson** qualifies for a "dual status" pin that will be awarded at our Christmas Dinner. Our Squadron continues to grow and we are always looking for new members. If you are recruiting for our Post and it is determined that someone may not be eligible for the American Legion, please then ask about a father or grandfather, that person may be eligible for the Sons of the American Legion. An SAL member is eligible to participate in all the activities of the Post, to include Funeral Honors, Eagle Court Presentations, etc.

At this most festive time of the year, please pause to remember the many men and women who are serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and in far-away places. Many continue to be in harm's way and their sacrifices to protect our freedoms must never be forgotten. **And YES Virginia, there is a Santa Claus – BELIEVE!!**

Sergeant-at-Arms



Frank Lennartz

Many thanks to all who helped with our many post activities this past month. Make sure that you have Dec. 5 marked for our post social at Granny Annie's in Kaysville starting at 6:30pm. This is a family affair for Post members, prospective Post members, Sons of the American Legion and their spouses.

Also, on Dec. 19, we have that **multiple Eagle Scout flag presentation**. If you haven't been to one of these you have missed a great event. Come and join us. Time and place to be announced.

Chaplain



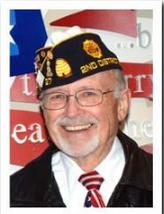
JGolden Barton

With so much terror and hatred festering throughout the world, those of us who share the many blessings of freedom, liberty and the safety of America, are greatly blessed at this special time of the year. Cheers, to all who have served God and Country in making America the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Our hearts and support are with the brave men and women who find themselves in harm's way or away from home during this Christmas season. Our sincere offer seems so little for the sacrifice of those serving in the military. We offer our gift of honor and appreciation, for the service of the few who are giving so much to protect the rights of all America.

Our faith and prayers for their safety and welfare, and extending to family members awaiting their return, is without measure. They are America's best. Season's greetings to all Farmington Post 27 members. May the New Year brighten your days with renewed hope and assurance that the God of heaven is watching over all of us.

Finance Officer



John Sheets

Comrades: Current Bank Balance is **\$1185.16** after having just paid \$170 for ten Flags that have been flown over the National Capital. The Flags will be presented to Eagle Scouts and will be paid for by the parents. We have a gain of about \$3.00 on each Flag.

We have an additional obligation for two membership dues to the Department of Utah and some nominal, but yet unknown, expenses for the Christmas Party.

POW/MIA News



Jay C. Hess

The national American Legion web page links to the story of Lt Billie Harris, Missing in Action in France WWII. <http://www.burnpit.legion.org/2012/11/video-60-year-mystery-fate-lt-billie-harris>. I recommend that all with internet access watch the two stories by CBS TV. It is the story of true devotion. Cheer to his wife, Peggy.

A Side note: I liked the following comment to this story.

Americans like Lieutenant Harris never knew the spiritual and intellectual awakening of the 1960s. No, their characters were forged by the Great Depression and WWII. They didn't "explore their sexuality," they either got married or they didn't, and in their day a "partner" was someone you started a business with. That other person, the one you turned out the lights with, was your spouse. And, yes, as they have since we learned to walk upright sometimes things went bad, but most of the time you were pretty proud to have him or her around. Drugs were what made you well when you got sick.

And Mrs. Harris? Wonderful lady of, as we used to say "a certain age," a senior in rank and class only. Wonderful, but in her day certainly not unique. Sure, there were tramps and loose women and girls with a past and girls who drank too much, but the standard was not women for whom marriage was just another "life experience." The standard was One Life, One Love. I know, I travel North often and I've heard it all: How Old School and Neanderthal of these useless old people. And what an insensitive and violent example to set for today's smart, computer-savvy, metro-sexual (I do not even want to guess what that word means) young Americans. Yes, young Americans, the ones who will never, ever have to bear the terrible burden of the title: Their Nation's Greatest Generation.

Richard Vidaurri, Guadalajara, Mexico, Americal Division, U.S. Army in Vietnam

Historian



Kent Hansen

The Christmas truce was a series of widespread, unofficial ceasefires that took place along the **Western Front** around Christmas 1914, during World War I. Through the week leading up to Christmas, parties of German and British soldiers began to exchange seasonal greetings and songs between their trenches; on occasion, the tension was reduced to the point that individuals would walk across to talk to their opposite numbers bearing gifts. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, many soldiers from both sides – as well as, to a lesser degree, from French units – independently ventured into "no man's land", where they mingled, exchanging food and souvenirs. As well as joint burial ceremonies, several meetings ended in carol-singing. Troops from both sides were also friendly enough to play games of football with one another.

The truce is seen as a symbolic moment of peace and humanity amidst one of the most violent events of modern history. It was not ubiquitous; in some regions of the front, fighting continued throughout the day, while in others, little more than an arrangement to recover bodies was made. The following year, a few units again arranged ceasefires with their opponents over Christmas, but the truces were not nearly as widespread as in 1914; this was, in part, due to strongly worded orders from the high commands of both sides prohibiting such fraternization. In 1916, after the unprecedentedly bloody battles of the Somme and Verdun, and the beginning of widespread poison gas use, soldiers on both sides increasingly viewed the other side as less than human, and no more Christmas truces were sought. The Christmas truces were particularly significant due to the number of men involved and the level of their participation – even in very peaceful sectors, dozens of men openly congregating in daylight was remarkable.



Legion Laffs



Calendar of Events/Dates of Interest.

- Dec. 5 – **Post 27 Christmas Social**, Granny Annie's, 286 North 400 West, East Entrance, Kaysville, 6:30 pm. Cost: \$17.00 per person
- Dec. 7 – **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**: George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home, 1102 North 1200 West, Ogden. See the Budweiser Clydesdales, 1:00-3:00pm. Pearl Harbor Survivor program at 12:30pm; invited Utah PH Survivors will be provided lunch at noon.
- Dec. 10 – **Veteran Speaker Series**, Salt Lake City Library, 210 East 400 South, Auditorium. 7:00pm. Music from the 40's and 50's from 6:10pm to 7:10pm.
Featured Speakers: Don Peterson, Air Force, Korea, and Richard Casdorff, Marine Corps, Korea.
- Dec. 19 – **Eagle Scout Flag Presentation**, time and location TBA.
- Dec. 25 – **Christmas Day**
- Jan. 1 – **New Year's Day** *Welcome 2013!*
- Jan. 10 – **No Post Meeting**: Instead Post Oratorical "Constitution" Contest, Davis High School, 4:00pm.
- Jan. 14 – **Veteran Speaker Series**, Salt Lake City Library, 210 East 400 South, Auditorium. 7:00pm.
- **Featured Speaker:** Robert Milburn, Army, Korea and Vietnam.
- Jan 17 -- **District 2 Oratorical "Constitution" Contest**, Davis High, 4 PM
- Feb 11 -- **Veteran Speaker Series**, Salt Lake City Library, 210 E 400 S, Auditorium, 7:00pm.
Featured speaker: James Andrews, Marine, Korea.

Below: Eagle Scout Court of Honor Flag Ceremony for Scout Grant Gardner with Post 27 members Paula Stephenson, Dale Crockett, and Ken Hadley

Right: Veterans Day Speaker Kenneth Spencer at the Farmington Veterans Memorial



Thanks to Kathy Layton and Chuck Stephenson for their photographic skills.



Left: Cdr Stephenson presents Certificate of Appreciation to Post 27 member and business owner Darrell Lake (Lake Welding), with wife Barbara and 1st Vice Cdr Ron Craig

Below: Davis County Building Open House on Nov 9: Post 27 members participating in Flag Ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance

